



Occupational health and safety enforcement

April 2016 – March 2017

Read the Safe at Work Ontario annual report. It covers results of our work on enforcing the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, as well as the top workplace hazards and tools to reduce them.

Message from the Minister

No one should ever have to face the tragedy of a workplace incident or illness. Workplace injuries affect workers and their families, friends and co-workers.

The Ontario government is fully committed to the health and safety of workers. It is our highest priority.

Ontario has one of the best safety records in Canada, but we know we can do even better. In the past decade, the Ministry of Labour has doubled the number of occupational health and safety inspectors and launched a highly effective Safe At Work Ontario enforcement strategy.

When it comes to safety inspections, the ministry takes a proactive, preventative approach. Enforcement campaigns target key hazards at workplaces. They help raise awareness and prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

The 2016-17 annual report chronicles the ongoing achievements of Safe At Work Ontario safety and enforcement initiatives. It showcases where we are making real progress in keeping workers safe on the job. It also reveals areas where we need to do more to improve health and safety.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping themselves and their workplaces healthy and safe. It is a shared responsibility involving employers, labour groups and workers as well as government and its safety partners. By working together, we can ensure workers return home safe and sound at the end of each work day.

Sincerely,
Kevin Flynn
Minister, Ministry of Labour

Message from the Deputy Minister

This annual report provides an overview of the Ministry of Labour's occupational health and safety program activities over the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

We are continuing to expand and enhance our Safe At Work Ontario (SAWO) strategy to promote safe and healthy work practices through compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

One of the most valuable tools in our efforts to make workplaces safer for everyone is the input and feedback of stakeholders. These can be employers, workers, unions, health and safety organizations, industry leaders, professionals and experts – anyone or any organization with an interest in the safety of workers and workplaces. Stakeholder engagement is vital if we are to make beneficial improvements to health and safety in workplaces.

For example, small businesses represent 95 per cent of all employers in Ontario, and they employ 28 per cent of Ontario's workers. This is one reason we have reached out to small business through stakeholder consultations. Through these consultations, we have heard that there is a need for more outreach by health and safety inspectors to small and medium-sized businesses, and the importance of educating and training new, young and vulnerable workers on their health and safety rights in the workplace.

Stakeholders also told us their concerns about emerging hazards such as distracted workers due to new technology, workplace violence and harassment and musculoskeletal disorders such as repetitive strain injuries. This kind of input provides essential information that guides our planning and program activities.

Partnerships and collaborations help us to meet new and continuing challenges in the workplace. For example, we have worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to bring key stakeholders and experts together and obtain advice on how to reduce and prevent workplace violence against health care professionals. Throughout 2015-16 and 2016-17, this initiative's Leadership Table and its working groups developed recommendations and products. Another collaboration, with Health Quality Ontario – a government agency that advises on health care quality – led to the development of a mandatory hospital reporting indicator on workplace violence, Ontario's first mandatory reporting indicator for hospitals.

Comments and discussions are welcome at any time. For more information on the Safe At Work Ontario consultation sessions, please email SAWOConsultations@ontario.ca.

Sophie Dennis,
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour

Message from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations

2016-17 was an outstanding year for the Ministry of Labour's occupational health and safety program.

Through proactive enforcement, education, outreach and partnerships, the program promoted compliance and supported a strong health and safety culture at workplaces across the province. These and other measures resulted in safer working conditions for Ontario workers.

Much of this success was due to the hard work of inspectors and specialized staff, including engineers, hygienists, ergonomists and radiation protection officers. Thanks to their dedication and commitment, the ministry was able to implement 18 major enforcement initiatives and visit thousands of workplaces. They also provided important information to many vulnerable workers who are now more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Our program continues to partner with organizations and stakeholders to get the health and safety message out. For example, the ministry worked with representatives from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, patient advocates, research experts, health and safety consultants, union representatives, senior executives and frontline staff throughout 2015-16 and 2016-17 to develop recommendations and tools to prevent and reduce workplace violence in health care settings. A progress report, 23 recommendations, and 13 products were published in 2017. Staff also worked with health and safety associations on a number of awareness raising initiatives.

The program also obtained feedback from industry and other stakeholders. The ministry has already acted on some of the suggestions and will continue to use stakeholder feedback to improve our safety programs.

The year also marked a major milestone for Safe At Work Ontario, a key strategy used by the program to proactively identify and address high-risk workplace hazards. Between 2008, when the program was launched, and 2016-17, inspectors made a total of 700,000 field visits and issued more than one million compliance orders. Congratulations to everyone involved in the program on this remarkable achievement!

Highlights of the 2016-17 annual report include:

- nine province-wide blitzes targeting falls, mobile cranes, chemical handling and electrical and other hazards
- eight regional initiatives focusing on issues such as heavy raw material handling in the Central East Region, marble and granite shops in the Central West Region, elevated work platforms on farms and wood frame structures in the Eastern Region and education and outreach activities at small manufacturers, industrial malls and re-purposed factories in Western Region
- full-scale adoption of a new “point-in-time” mine inspection model in the Northern Region that involves a top-to-bottom inspection over three to five days
- an ongoing three-year health care initiative in which inspectors visited hospitals, long-term care homes and other health care workplaces to address serious hazards
- ongoing visits by inspectors to residential roofing projects and outreach to consumers of roofing services, as part of an initiative to improve safety in underground economy in residential roofing

We are continuing to make excellent progress in many areas and to identify areas where more enforcement is needed.

I am very proud of these achievements. I want to express my deep appreciation to staff whose efforts help protect workers and bring them home safe every day.

Sincerely,
Peter Augruso
Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, Ministry of Labour

Introduction

Ontario’s occupational health and safety system is committed to creating a health and safety culture where workers return home safe at the end of every work day.

Safe At Work Ontario is a Ministry of Labour initiative to raise awareness of and increase compliance with Ontario's [*Occupational Health and Safety Act*](#).

The Act and its regulations are designed to keep workers safe and healthy. The Act sets out the health and safety requirements for workplaces across Ontario and Safe At Work Ontario helps promote safe and healthy workplace practices.

Safe At Work Ontario is a compliance strategy. It consists of the following activities:

- **stakeholder engagement** to help shape Ontario's occupational health and safety compliance strategy
- annual **sector enforcement plans**
- **blitzes and initiatives** conducted by occupational health and safety inspectors in workplaces based on the annual enforcement plans
- other **proactive visits** that focus on key hazards in the workplace
- **public reporting** of blitz and initiative results on our website and in our annual report

Occupational health and safety inspectors visit workplaces to provide information and to conduct inspections to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation. When a workplace is not complying with a requirement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations, the inspector will issue an order and the employer must correct the problem within a certain time. If the problem poses an immediate threat to worker health and safety, the inspector will issue a stop work order, which means that work stops until the problem is corrected.

In addition to the proactive visits that are the focus of Safe At Work Ontario, ministry occupational health and safety inspectors also conduct reactive visits to investigate any health and safety incidents in the workplace.

Proactive visits are unannounced inspections conducted to:

- monitor compliance with occupational health and safety legislation
- promote the Internal Responsibility System
- advise workplace parties of their rights, duties and responsibilities
- discuss requirements of the occupational health and safety legislation

Reactive visits are inspections conducted to:

- investigate a fatality, critical injury, work refusal, complaint, occupational disease or other health and safety related event in the workplace

Ontario provides a toll-free province-wide telephone number to report unsafe work practices and workplace health and safety incidents. Call the Ministry of Labour Health and Safety Contact Centre at .

- Call any time to report critical injuries, fatalities or work refusals.
- For general inquiries about workplace health and safety, call between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.
- In an emergency, always call immediately.

This report describes the ministry's occupational health and safety enforcement activities between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Most of these activities ran throughout the year; however, blitzes ran for shorter, more intense periods of time (e.g. two to four months) and some activities were multi-year initiatives.

Summary statistics 2016-17

In 2016-17, ministry inspectors made a total of 79,849 visits to 34,756 workplaces and issued 118,179 orders.

Table 1: Number of total inspector field visits and orders issued, 2016-17

Program inspector activities	Number
Total field visits	79,849
Total workplaces visited	34,756
Total orders issued	118,179

More than half (52%) of workplace visits were proactive visits: inspectors going proactively to workplaces in sectors with high hazards and/or vulnerable workers to provide information and education and to monitor compliance.

Proactive visits, which accounted for 64% of all orders issued, are an effective way to improve safety and prevent injuries or fatalities.

Table 2: Number of proactive inspector field visit activities and orders issued, 2016-17

Program inspector activities	Number
Proactive inspections	40,142
Proactive field visit activities	41,319
Orders issued	75,249
Stop work orders issued	4,165

Reactive visits are an essential part of inspectors' work. The ministry responds to safety issues in the workplace and investigates complaints about violations of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, work refusals and reports of critical injuries and fatalities. In 2016-17, inspectors conducted 38,530 reactive visits which accounted for 48% of all field visits.

Table 3: Number of reactive inspector field visits and orders issued, 2016-17

Program inspector activities	Number
Reactive field visits	38,530
Orders issued	42,930

Program inspector activities	Number
Stop work orders issued	2,816

Reactive visits identify and address health and safety issues that contributed to workplace problems, injuries and fatalities. Over the past 10 years, the number of investigations conducted in response to complaints, critical injuries, fatalities and work refusals has increased.

Proactive strategy – Safe At Work Ontario

Safe At Work Ontario consists of three main activities: stakeholder engagement, annual sector-specific enforcement plans and proactive compliance and enforcement activities.

Stakeholder engagement

Ongoing stakeholder engagement is key to the Safe At Work Ontario strategy. It helps the Ministry of Labour understand what is happening in workplaces so it can respond quickly to workforce changes. The ministry uses the information gathered during stakeholder consultations as part of the annual planning process for Safe At Work Ontario.

Between November 2015 and January 2016, the ministry sought input from representatives and specialists from industries and sectors across Ontario.

Stakeholders were generally very supportive of the ministry's effort to improve occupational health and safety in Ontario and our enforcement strategy. They highlighted the following strengths:

- **Resources to educate and inform others.** The ministry and its partner health and safety associations are doing well in providing resources and should continue efforts to ensure resources are user-friendly and targeted. They should provide more details on how to access resources.
- **Changes to the Joint Health and Safety Committee member certification process.** Stakeholders say the changes, which includes refresher training every three years and new program standards, are excellent.
- **Advance information on blitzes.** Stakeholders find it helpful to receive advance information about blitzes and appreciate the transparency of publishing blitz results.

There were also suggestions for improvement, including:

- **Making training more accessible.** The ministry should continue to make training more accessible and provide more resources to: new/young, vulnerable, part-time and seasonal workers; and workers in non-traditional workplaces. Supervisor training should also be more thorough and enforced to ensure supervisor competency.
- **Improving the protocol for field visits.** It is important to continue to improve the protocol for field visits, such as ensuring consistency between inspectors and performing visits at a variety of sectors.
- **Helping workplaces prepare for blitzes.** Workplaces would like more tools to help them prepare for blitzes.
- **Providing a clearer definition of critical injury.** The definition of “critical injury” should be more specific and standardized so critical injuries are reported accurately.

- **Promoting the Internal Responsibility System.** More efforts should be made to educate workplaces about the Internal Responsibility System and engage employers and workers.

Stakeholders would like to see more focus on inspector outreach to new or small/mid-sized businesses. They emphasized the importance of educating and training new, young and vulnerable workers on their health and safety rights in the workplace.

Stakeholders also voiced concerns about emerging hazards such as distracted workers due to new technology, workplace violence and harassment and musculoskeletal disorders.

Comments and discussions are welcome at any time. For more information on the Safe At Work Ontario consultation sessions, please email SAWOConsultations@ontario.ca.

Annual sector-specific enforcement plans

As part of Safe At Work Ontario, the Ministry of Labour develops annual sector-specific enforcement plans to focus inspectors' work and guide their proactive visits. The plans also provide information on hazards in each sector as well as tools and resources to address/reduce those hazards.

Each year, the ministry develops plans for four sector-specific programs and one unit:

- industrial sector program
- construction sector program
- mining sector program
- health care sector program
- specialized professional services

The plans also include details about the ministry's planned blitzes and other health and safety initiatives.

Proactive compliance and enforcement activities

Each year, Safe At Work Ontario conducts a series of proactive health and safety compliance and enforcement activities that target certain hazards in workplaces within each sector. To identify the hazards and workplaces to target, the ministry uses a risk-based process that takes into account: advice from stakeholders, injury and fatality rates and incidents, the nature of the work (i.e. inherent hazards), the vulnerability of the workers and the sector's compliance history.

The sector-specific plans identify priorities for proactive visits. They also identify the focus for initiatives (which occur throughout the year) and blitzes (which occur over a short set period of time, usually between one to four months). Safe At Work Ontario publishes the dates of all blitzes in advance so employers have the opportunity to assess their own compliance and prepare before the inspectors come.

Inspectors involved in proactive compliance and enforcement activities visit workplaces, provide education, conduct inspections and issue orders. The goals are to:

- raise awareness of hazards
- increase workplace compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations

- prevent worker injuries and illness

In 2016-17, Safe At Work Ontario conducted a number of blitzes and enforcement initiatives to support our compliance strategy. These blitzes and initiatives are described in more detail in this report.

For more detailed information, see the blitz schedule planned for 2017-2018 as well as the sector-specific plans.

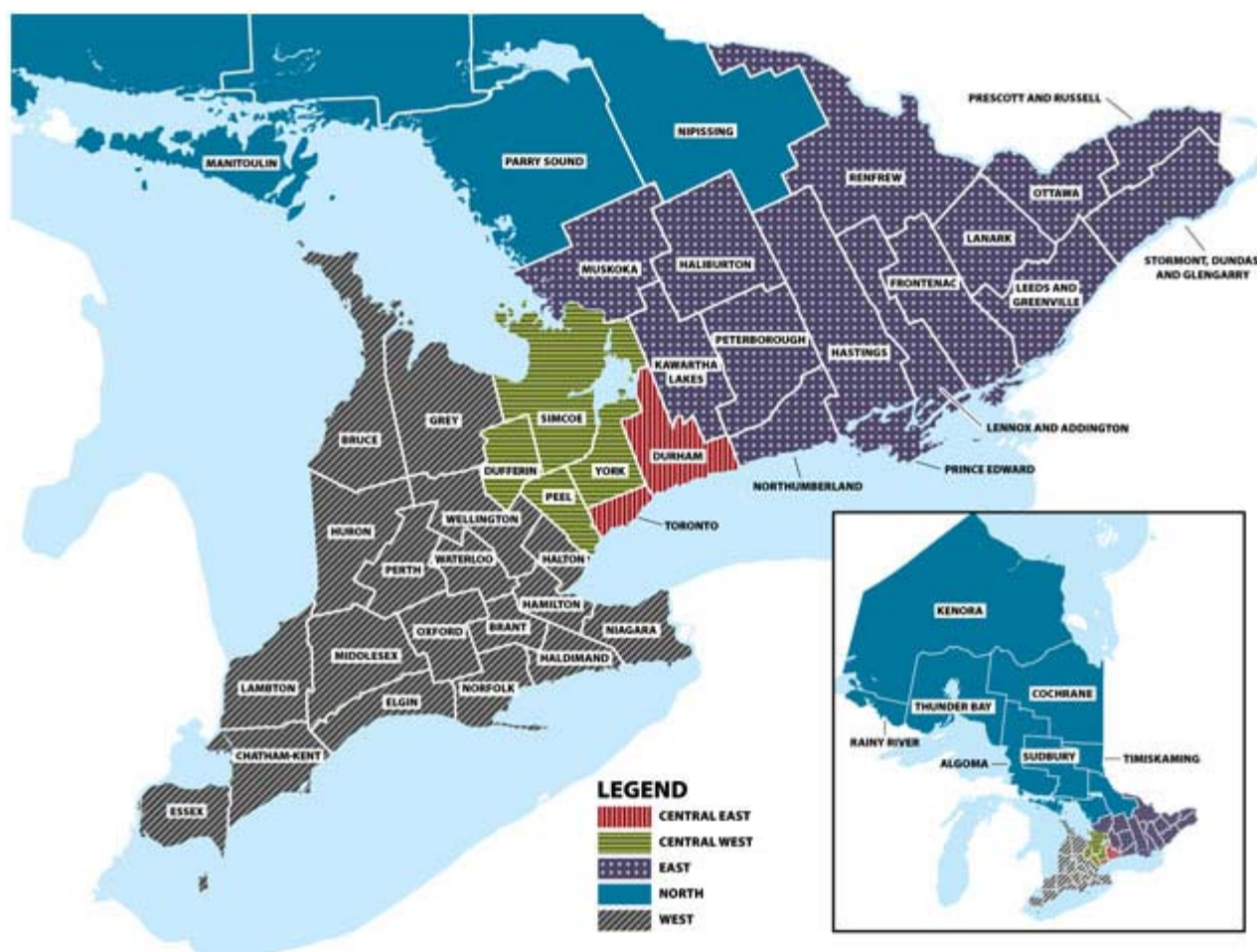
Partnerships and collaborations

Since 2015, the ministry has co-sponsored an initiative with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to prevent and reduce workplace violence in health care workplaces. This initiative brought key stakeholders and experts together to provide advice on how to reduce and prevent workplace violence against health care professionals. Throughout 2015-16 and 2016-17, the Leadership Table and its working groups developed recommendations and products. A progress report, 23 recommendations and 13 products were released in May 2017.

Collaboration with Health Quality Ontario led to the development of a mandatory hospital reporting indicator on workplace violence, Ontario's first mandatory reporting indicator for hospitals.

Regions and offices

Figure 1: Map of Ontario's Ministry of Labour Enforcement Regions



[View a larger version of this map \(PDF\)](#)

Central East

Central East Region is the most densely populated and one of the fastest growing geographic areas in Canada. It hosts many complex construction projects and has the highest volume and dollar value of building permits in Canada. Toronto leads North American cities in high-rise construction activity with approximately twice as many projects as in the next most active markets: New York City and Mexico City. A large number of hospitals and health care facilities are located in the City of Toronto's downtown core, and the city is home to a thriving tourist industry. Its many hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues employ thousands of workers. Major employers include: Hydro One, Ontario Power Generation (Pickering and Darlington), the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) distribution warehouses and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The region has a dynamic workforce and is headquarters for many trade unions and special interest groups.

Two offices strategically located in North York and Scarborough deliver the ministry's core business in health and safety and employment standards to the City of Toronto and Durham Region.

Central West

Central West Region delivers Occupational Health and Safety and Employment Standards programs within Peel Region, York Region, Dufferin County and Simcoe County.

This diverse multicultural area is one of the fastest growing parts of Canada. Over the past 20 years, Central West Region has had the highest number of building permits of any part of Canada. It has the largest and most complex construction projects in Ontario, with large numbers of trade unions and special interest groups. With more than 25 languages commonly spoken in the workplace, inspectors face special challenges in communicating effectively with workplace parties.

The larger employers within the Region of Peel include Daimler Chrysler, Greater Toronto Airport Authority, Coca Cola, Petro Canada and a large number of hospitals and other healthcare facilities and school boards, including William Osler Health System, Trillium Health Partners, Peel District School Board and Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board. In terms of size, employers range from Honda in Alliston with over 4,500 workers to small restaurants with three or four employees.

Other sectors include retail and service industries, hospitality and recreational facilities, office and school premises, and farming and forestry operations. Major employers include: Bacardi, Chrysler, Beer Store Warehouse, Canadian Tire Warehouse, Amazon, Loblaws Headquarters, Maple Lodge Farms, Sofina Foods, Olymel, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (Central North Correction Centre), Ministry of Children and Youth Services (Roy McMurtry Youth Centre), Magna International, Royal Plastics and Paramount Canada's Wonderland.

Two offices, strategically located in Mississauga and Newmarket, deliver the ministry's core business in health and safety, and employment standards in the region.

Eastern

Eastern Ontario is made up of 113 municipalities and more than 200 communities.

Its two million residents are spread over a large rural area as well as several major urban centres, including Ottawa, Cornwall, Kingston and Peterborough. Key sectors are education (six universities, seven community colleges, and 18 school boards), health care (42 acute care facilities and 131 long-term facilities) and agriculture. The Eastern Region also attracts millions of tourists each year to popular destinations such as the Rideau Canal, the Thousand Islands and the Trent Severn Waterway.

This region is an important business hub. It has excellent transportation linkages by road, rail and seaway between Canada and the U.S., including Canada's fifth busiest, U.S. border crossing: the Lansdowne/Alexandria (Thousand Islands Bridge), which connects to Interstate 81 and significant distribution centres.

The region covers Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Ottawa, Renfrew, Lanark, Leeds and Greenville, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Hastings, Prince Edward, Northumberland, Peterborough, Haliburton, Muskoka and Kawartha Lakes.

The Eastern Region's enforcement is subdivided into five districts. The five district offices operate out of Ottawa (3), Kingston and Peterborough.

Northern

The Northern Region covers almost 90% of the province's land mass and is the ministry's largest region. It includes 144 municipalities, 10 territorial districts, 106 First Nations, and over 150 unincorporated communities, including 46 local services boards.

Northern Ontario borders Quebec, Manitoba, Minnesota, Michigan, Hudson Bay and James Bay. Its vast area creates many unique challenges, including large distances between workplaces and urban centres and many remote worksites. The North is characterized by extreme temperatures: extremely cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

The region's economy is primarily resource based, including: mining, forestry, fishing and oil and gas industries. In 2016, these resource industries accounted for close to 6.2% of the North's total employment compared to 0.8% for the province as a whole. Mining, a relatively small and highly organized industry, is the most complex and diverse in terms of occupational health and safety.

Northern Ontario is also more reliant than other regions on public sector employment, including public administration, education and health care. In 2016, these sectors accounted for 31.75% of the North's total employment compared to 25.47% for the province as a whole. The two largest hospitals in the North (Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and Health Sciences North Sudbury) each employ nearly 4,000 workers.

The Northern Region covers Nipissing, Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Timiskaming, Sudbury, Algoma, Cochrane, Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora.

The Northern Region has five district offices, one dedicated program office (the Provincial Claims Centre) and one satellite office. With the exception of the Provincial Claims Centre, which handles solely employment standards claims, the district offices provide service to our clients in all Ministry of Labour programs.

Western

The Western Region includes the counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron, Wellington, Perth, Brant, Oxford, Lambton, Middlesex, Essex, Kent, Elgin and Haldimand-Norfolk as well as Halton Region, Region of Waterloo, the Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton.

This diverse, geographically demanding region is one of the fastest growing in Canada. The Western Region is home to many diverse complex construction projects, and large numbers of trade unions and special interest groups. It has the second highest number and dollar value of building permits in Canada after the greater Toronto area. Each fiscal year, the number of building permits issued for commercial, industrial and agricultural development in the region exceeds the number for the previous year.

The Western Region also has the largest number of health care, education, steel, auto and transport workplaces as well as significant underground mining (soft rock) and aggregates. The borders and waterways surrounding the region contribute to jurisdictional issues.

The ministry has five offices in the region, located in Hamilton, London, St. Catharines, Waterloo and Windsor. All sites have administrative staff and management. The region's Hamilton office also operates the Ministry of Labour's Health and Safety Contact Centre for the province.

Industrial program

Industrial program

The Industrial Health and Safety Program is the largest and most diverse of the ministry's four occupational health and safety programs. The program is responsible for enforcing the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations in 29 complex industries. Most workers in provincially regulated workplaces in Ontario are covered by the Industrial Health and Safety Program.

Industrial blitzes

In 2016-17, ministry inspectors – in addition to their regular inspection duties – conducted three inspection blitzes focusing specifically on reducing hazards related to falls, new and young workers and handling chemical materials.

Fall hazards

In Ontario's industrial sector, falls of less than three metres (under 10 feet) are one of the leading causes of injuries that result in workers missing time from work. In 2015, there were eight work-related deaths from falls at industrial workplaces.

Employers are responsible for protecting workers from fall hazards in the workplace.

The fall hazards blitz ran from May 16, 2016 to July 15, 2016. Inspectors visited workplaces, such as retail establishments, restaurants, offices and related services, and tourism, hospitality and recreation services, where workers might be exposed to falls of less than three metres.

The blitz results show that workers continue to be exposed to workplace fall hazards related to guardrails, portable ladders and floors or other work surfaces.

During routine inspections of Ontario's industrial workplaces, the ministry will continue to target fall hazards. Inspectors will check that workers:

- are informed, instructed and supervised, as required
- are working in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Health and Safety Act

Table 4: Fall hazards blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	1,532
Workplaces visited	1,254
Orders issued	4,416

Program activities	Number
Stop work orders	162
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.88
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.52

Resources

- Detailed description of [Blitz Results: Fall Hazards 2016](#)
- [Fall Hazards](#)
- [Ladder Safety Fast Fact](#)
- [Health and Safety Partners](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Slips and Falls](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](#)

New and young workers

New and young workers in Ontario are more likely than other workers to be injured on the job. The enforcement blitz, which ran from July 18 to September 2, 2016, focused on:

- new and young workers aged 14 to 24 years
- new workers who have been on the job less than six months or who have been reassigned to a new job

During the blitz, inspectors targeted workplaces where many new and young workers were employed, including: agricultural services (landscapers, veterinary services); tourism, hospitality and recreation services (hotels and motels, golf courses); restaurants; and retail settings.

Table 5: New and young workers blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	1,144
Workplaces visited	905
Orders and requirements issued	3,113
Stop work orders	44
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.72
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.44

Resources

- Detailed description of [Blitz Results: New and Young Workers 2016](#)
- [New and Young Workers](#)
- [Health and Safety Partners](#)

Chemical handling

Hazards involving chemical handling can lead to serious worker injuries, occupational diseases and even death. From 2005 to 2014, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board data recorded 16,207 chemical-related lost-time injuries from exposure to caustic, noxious or allergenic substances.

The proper handling of chemicals is vital to workplaces in Ontario. Employers are responsible for protecting workers from chemical handling hazards.

From September 19 to October 31, 2016, Ministry of Labour inspectors conducted an enforcement blitz targeting chemical handling hazards at workplaces in Ontario. The inspectors checked that employers were taking appropriate action to assess and address these hazards.

The blitz's goals were to:

- raise awareness of chemical handling hazards in workplaces
- increase workplace compliance with the safe handling and use of chemicals
- prevent worker injuries, illness, and death

The blitz results show that employers need to be diligent in ensuring equipment, materials and protective devices are maintained in good condition. They should give more attention to training workers about chemical handling, including basic awareness and training related to chemicals in use in the workplace as well as the use and care of personal protective equipment.

Table 6: Chemical handling blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	803
Workplaces visited	638
Orders and requirements	2,887
Stop work orders	47
Orders and requirements per field visit	3.60
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	4.53

Resources

- Detailed description of [Blitz Results: Chemical Handling 2016](#)
- [Topics and Publications: Health and Safety](#)
- [Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System](#)

Provincial industrial enforcement initiatives

New small business registrations and Internal Responsibility System initiative

Small businesses (i.e. 50 or fewer workers) present unique health and safety challenges and are a priority in [Healthy and Safe Ontario Workplaces: A Strategy for Transforming Occupational Health and Safety](#). Because they are small, these businesses may not be aware of the roles and resources, and be unaware of the materials and compliance assistance available through the ministry and from health and safety associations.

In a strong Internal Responsibility System, everyone plays a key role in ensuring a safe and healthy workplace: employers, supervisors and workers.

In this provincial enforcement initiative, inspectors worked to register small businesses and educate them about the Internal Responsibility System and resources.

The results of the initiative suggest small businesses need to be more aware of their requirements under the Act. The highest percentage of orders were issued for lack of compliance with administrative and training requirements.

Table 7: Industrial Health and Safety Program new small business registrations and Internal Responsibility System initiative

Program activities	Number
Field visits	3,045
Workplaces visited	2,335
Orders and requirements issued	8,386
Stop work orders	99
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.75
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.59

Resources

- [Small business](#)
- [The Internal Responsibility System](#)
- [Health and Safety Partners](#)
- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)

Regional industrial enforcement initiatives

Central East Region

Heavy raw material handling

In 2016-17, the Central East Region targeted their proactive compliance and enforcement activities related to raw material handling to workplaces with a history of complaints, injuries and prosecutions. In addition to focusing on compliance with the Internal Responsibility System, this initiative also looked specifically at other conditions associated with heavy raw material handling, such as:

- lift-trucks and other lifting devices
- mobile/transport equipment
- workplace layout/design and storage systems
- hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- manual material handling
- worker training

- workplace supervision

Inspectors made proactive visits to workplaces that had been investigated by the ministry or prosecuted in the last five years. During this initiative, the most frequently issued orders were related to requirements to:

- post the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- examine a lifting device to determine its ability to handle the maximum rated load
- provide health and safety awareness training
- maintain equipment in good condition

Table 8: Heavy raw material handling initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	59
Workplaces visited	38
Orders and requirements issued	167
Stop work orders	7
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.83
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	4.39

Central West Region

Marble and granite shops

In 2016-17, industrial inspectors from Central West Region visited marble, granite and stone shops. To prepare for the initiative and conduct stakeholder outreach, the region partnered with the Marble Institute of America and Central East Region, who conducted a similar initiative (i.e. heavy raw materials handling). The Workplace Safety and Prevention Services Association was also part of a communication strategy for workplaces in this subsector.

During the year-long initiative, the most frequently issued orders were related to requirements to:

- inspect lifting device annually
- maintain equipment in good condition
- take every reasonable precaution to protect worker safety
- post a copy of the Act and the “Prevention Starts Here” poster

Table 9: Marble and granite shops initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	82
Workplaces visited	45
Orders and requirements issued	364
Stop work orders	18
Orders and requirements per field visit	4.4

Program activities	Number
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	8.1

Landscapers and snow removal services

To discuss strategies for introducing this initiative and review the sector's training needs, the ministry met with representatives of Landscape Ontario and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, who contacted their respective stakeholders and arranged training sessions.

This initiative focused on compliance with the Internal Responsibility System, guarding of machinery, safe vehicle operation during inclement weather conditions, ergonomics and worker training.

During the five-month initiative, the most frequently issued orders were related to:

- maintaining equipment in good condition
- taking every reasonable precaution to protect worker safety
- transporting, placing and storing materials so they will not tip or fall
- providing workers with basic health and safety awareness training

Table 10: Landscapers and snow removal initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	10
Workplaces visited	7
Orders and requirements issued	31
Stop work orders	1
Orders and requirements per field visit	3.1
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	4.4

Eastern Region

Property management services

Property management companies operate in a wide range of commercial, industrial and apartment/condominium properties. The companies offer a range of services, including landscaping, electrical, plumbing, janitorial and waste services, and general maintenance and repair. Past incidents include electrical contacts and a fatality in a garbage compactor.

Inspections focused on property management/maintenance activities. During the year-long initiative, the most frequently issued orders were related to:

- machine guarding
- maintaining equipment in good condition
- awareness training for workers and supervisors

Table 11: Property management services initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	37
Workplaces visited	31
Orders and requirements issued	171
Stop work orders	6
Orders and requirements per field visit	4.6
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	5.5

Electrical hazards in retail

The retail sector has had a number of injuries involving electrical contacts, so this initiative focused on electrical hazards such as maintenance of cords, panels and outlets, using the wrong tools (e.g. meters without fused links), lack of training, materials blocking access to panels and failure to de-energize and lockout.

The most frequently issued orders were related to:

- awareness training for workers and supervisors
- posting of the Act and poster
- posting of workplace violence and harassment policies

Table 12: Electrical hazards in retail initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	34
Workplaces visited	32
Orders and requirements issued	108
Stop work orders	0
Orders and requirements per field visit	3.2
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.4

Northern Region

Forestry equipment

The Northern Region's forestry equipment initiative focused on hazards associated with both mechanical harvesting and traditional cut and skid logging, such as:

- working within danger zones, including both the equipment itself and the material being handled
- maintenance and repair of equipment including using proper immobilization, blocking, de-energizing and lockout procedures
- risk of falls
- use of chain saws

- working remotely

Workplaces are expected to have in place policies and procedures to reduce these hazards, including safe management and use of equipment and material, falls prevention, emergency plans and mandatory training using a specific module developed by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Table 13: Forestry equipment initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	175
Workplaces visited	113
Orders and requirements issued	93
Stop work orders	10
Orders and requirements per field visit	0.5
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	0.8

Struck-by mobile equipment/vehicles

This initiative focused on mobile equipment/vehicle hazards associated with poor visibility, line of sight, lighting, traffic plans and pedestrian and vehicular traffic interactions.

Table 14: Struck-by mobile equipment / vehicles initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	44
Workplaces visited	33
Orders and requirements issued	85
Stop work orders	5
Orders and requirements per field visit	1.9
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.6

Western Region

Industrial malls and re-purposed factories

Industrial malls and re-purposed factories have become more common throughout the Western Region. These workplaces provide specialized services or products and operate with minimal advertising or promotion. These businesses, which tend to be small and blend into a larger physical location or structure, can be easily overlooked.

Because these businesses operate in a low key manner (e.g. few employees, transient workforces, lack of employer presence), enforcement activity for this type of workplace has been sporadic and complaint driven.

With this initiative, which concluded on December 31, 2017, inspectors proactively contacted these businesses to enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations, and ensure that employers had established an Internal Responsibility System. Employers were visited twice:

- Inspectors used the first visit to discuss the Internal Responsibility System and give employers resources on workplace health and safety and employment standards.
- The second visit focused on overall compliance with the legislation and included a fulsome physical inspection of the workplace.

During this initiative, inspectors also had the opportunity to refer workplaces to the Employment Standards Program.

Table 15: Industrial malls and re-purposed factories initiative
stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	87
Workplaces visited	57
Orders and requirements issued	358
Stop work orders	11
Orders and requirements per field visit	4.11
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	6.28

Small manufacturing

Small manufacturers often struggle to compete due to issues such as fluctuation in the value of the dollar, limited resources and an inability to attract and keep skilled workers. Because these stakeholders are focused on competing, surviving and growing their business, they report that they have little time and/or resources to devote to regulatory compliance. As a result, workers in small manufacturing facilities may be exposed to hazards such as:

- working with machinery that has exposed hazardous moving parts
- exposure to stored hazardous energy when maintaining, servicing or setting up equipment
- working around high traffic areas often associated with the movement of materials
- musculoskeletal disorder injuries associated with repetitive work and/or excessive demands for manual material handling

This industry is a priority for the Ministry of Labour because it employs many temporary and/or unskilled workers – many of whom are vulnerable workers and unaware of their rights in the workplace.

Led by the Operations Health and Safety Program, the Western Region's two-year small manufacturing initiative was a partnership with the Health and Safety Program, Employment Standards Program, Workplace Safety and Prevention Services and the Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium:

- The first one and a half years were devoted to education and outreach to small manufacturing firms across the region. Education sessions were designed to improve stakeholder awareness of and compliance with both health and safety and employment standards.
- The last six months focused on enforcement. Inspectors visited small manufacturing firms and distributed resources. During the initial visit, inspectors looked specifically at administrative aspects of the health and safety program as a way to improve the workplace's Internal Responsibility System. During follow-up visits, they examined the broader range of hazards associated with manufacturing.

The enforcement phase of this initiative ended July 1, 2016. In total, between April 1, 2016 and July 1, 2016, inspectors made 36 field visits and issued 55 orders. Enforcement activities from previous years can be seen in the 2015-16 annual report.

Table 16: Small manufacturing

Program activities	Number
Field visits	36
Workplaces visited	32
Orders and requirements issued	55
Stop work orders	0
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	1.72
Orders and requirements per field visit	1.53

Utility sector

To improve safety in the utility sector, the Western Region:

- held strategic partnership planning meetings with the Electrical Safety Association and the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association
- provided outreach and awareness at the annual general meeting of the Association for Electrical Safety Professionals and with the Brantford and Elgin Chapters of the Ontario Electrical League
- is currently working with the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association to develop an Electrical Utilities Safety Association rule book training for inspectors

The health and safety associations are also working with local distribution companies to review the elements of a health and safety inspection.

Field visits began after April 1, 2017, so they will be reported next year.

Elevated work platforms in the farming sector

In recent years, the Ministry of Labour has investigated three serious incidents involving falls from elevated work platforms, particularly pipe/rail mounted trolleys.

Under certain circumstances, the trolleys can become unstable and tip over while on the pipe/rails. Ministry of Labour investigations determined that the tip overs were the result of unstable equipment

caused by pipe rails that are not level and/or the improper use of equipment, including worker activity, placement of product on the platform and unauthorized modification of the equipment.

During the initiative, inspectors focused on:

- improper pipe/rail installation on uneven ground, which can lead to improper levelling
- pipe rails placed on soft or wet soil that compacts unevenly over time
- unsecured pipe rail supports or improper shimming of the pipe rails
- inadequate rail support spacing
- improper maintenance such as not checking and adjusting level over time
- overloading of raised platforms
- unbalanced loads on raised platforms
- moving the trolley along the pipe/rails while raising or lowering platform
- moving trolley while in raised position
- overreaching from the trolley, which can lead to a fall or can unbalance the trolley and cause it to tip over
- activities that cause side loading such as power washing from the platform
- inappropriate use of the equipment such as for maintenance or construction.

Table 17: Elevating work platforms in the farming sector
initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	9
Workplaces visited	7
Orders and requirements issued	6
Stop work orders	0
Orders and requirements per field visit	0.66
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	0.86

Construction program

Under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, “construction” includes erection, alteration, repair, dismantling, demolition, structural maintenance, painting, land clearing, earth moving, grading, excavating, trenching, digging, boring, drilling, blasting or concreting, the installation of any machinery or plant and any work or undertaking in connection with a project (excluding any work or undertaking underground in a mine).

Under the Act, a construction “project” includes the construction of a building, bridge, structure, industrial establishment, mining plant, shaft, tunnel, caisson, trench, excavation, highway, railway, street, runway, parking lot, cofferdam, conduit, sewer, water main, service connection, telegraph, telephone or electrical cable, pipe line, duct or well, or any combination of the above. The term also refers to any work, undertaking, lands, equipment or materials used in connection with construction. The moving of a building or structure is also a project.

Construction inspectors enforce overall compliance with the legislation at construction projects across the province. As part of the Safe At Work Ontario strategy, they focus specifically on construction sectors with high injury rates, a history of non-compliance and known workplace hazards.

Construction blitzes

In 2016-17, the Construction Program conducted three blitzes aimed at: reducing fall hazards and electrical hazards, and improving safe operation of mobile cranes and material hoisting.

Fall hazards

From May 16 to July 15, 2016, Ministry of Labour inspectors visited construction projects across Ontario where workers could be at risk of falls. They targeted workplaces where: there was a high frequency of injuries due to falls; complaints have been received and/or previous incidents have occurred; and there was a history of non-compliance.

Special attention was paid to:

- low-rise construction and renovation
- high-rise construction and renovation
- high-rise “forming” (structures into which concrete is poured)
- re-roofing activities at existing homes

Table 18: Fall hazards blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	2,316
Workplaces visited	1,994
Orders and requirements issued	5,542
Stop work orders	465
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.39
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.78

Resources

- [Fall Hazards in Construction and Inspectors' Enforcement Tools \(video\)](#)
- [Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls in all Workplaces](#)
- [Prevent Falls on Construction Projects](#)
- [Working at Heights Training Program Standard](#)

Mobile cranes and material hoisting

Between August 1 and September 30, 2016, ministry inspectors conducted an enforcement blitz at construction sites across Ontario that focused on hazards involving mobile cranes and related material hoisting. Inspectors checked that employers were taking appropriate action to assess and address these hazards and protect workers' safety.

Special attention was paid to:

- the suitability of ground conditions and set up of the crane
- proximity to overhead energized power lines
- mobile crane maintenance and other records
- operator training and qualifications
- hoisting practices

Table 19: Mobile cranes and material hoisting blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	741
Workplaces visited	686
Orders and requirements	1,656
Stop work orders	118
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.23
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.41

Resources

- [Operating Construction Equipment in Reverse](#)
- [De-rating of Mobile Cranes](#)
- [Mobile Cranes and Material Hoisting](#)
- [Safety of Tower Cranes in Construction](#)
- [Telescopic Handlers](#)

Electrical hazards

Between November 1 and December 31, 2016, ministry inspectors conducted an enforcement blitz at construction sites across Ontario. They focused on electrical hazards as well as ergonomics-related hazards which could lead to musculoskeletal injuries.

Special attention was paid to:

- the training and qualifications of workers
- procedures in place to de-energize electrical systems at the source
- the use of lockout procedures
- visible signage
- procedures that workers followed when working on or near electrical equipment
- installations and distribution systems
- the safe use of ladders

Table 20: Electrical hazards blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	1,108
Workplaces visited	998

Program activities	Number
Orders and requirements issued	2,825
Stop work orders	2,801
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.55
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.83

Resources

- [Electrical Hazards](#)
- [Photovoltaic Systems](#)
- [IHSA Electrical Construction and Maintenance Workers' Safety Manual](#)

Provincial construction enforcement initiatives

During 2016-17, provincial compliance and enforcement initiatives in the construction sector focused on raising awareness about the fall protection provisions in the regulation for construction projects and promoting the Internal Responsibility System.

Fall protection

From April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, the fall protection initiative focused on:

- awareness of the Working at Heights training requirements
- site-specific fall protection training requirements in the regulations for construction projects
- fall protection pre-planning
- the condition, maintenance and inspection of fall protection equipment and devices
- use of prevention cautionary principles
- the availability of project emergency response and rescue plans

Worker safety on sloped roofs initiative (underground economy/roofing)

Workers employed in the roofing industry, particularly those who work in the underground economy, often do not have the training or protection to reduce their risk. In 2016-17, the ministry continued its roofing sector initiative that began in 2015-16. The focus was on new sloped roof and re-roofing activities and included after-hours inspections of roofing projects.

Inspectors checked that:

- adequate fall protection systems were in place and workers were properly trained in the safe use of fall protection components and equipment
- workers were adequately trained in the use and maintenance of equipment such as ladders, scaffolds and work platforms

Resources

- [Working at Heights Regulatory Requirements](#)

- [Working at Heights Training](#)
- [Working at Heights Training Program Standard](#)

Internal Responsibility System

The Internal Responsibility System initiative, which ran from April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, focused on:

- the role and responsibilities of senior management, directors and owners of construction firms
- the appointment of competent supervisors
- the role of joint health and safety committees, worker health and safety representatives and worker trades committees
- worker rights and responsibilities

The purpose of the initiative was to raise awareness about the importance of the Internal Responsibility System within the construction sector.

Resources

- [Guide to the Internal Responsibility System](#)
- [Guide for Health and Safety Committees and Representatives](#)
- [Health and Safety Awareness Training for Workers and Supervisors](#)
- [Supervisor Awareness and Accountability](#)
- [Constructor Guideline: Health and Safety](#)

Regional construction enforcement initiatives

Central East Region

Toilet and wash-up facilities

Construction workers are often at risk from exposure to infectious diseases in their workplaces due to poor sanitary conditions of toilets and wash-up facilities.

In 2016-17, the Central East Region targeted construction projects and workplaces to ensure compliance with requirements and promote hygiene, health and safety.

Inspectors made proactive and reactive visits to a variety of construction projects, paying special attention to the types of toilet and wash-up facilities provided or arranged for workers before work starts at a project as well as access to them. Regional inspectors raised the level of awareness in every workplace they visited.

During this initiative, the most frequently issued orders were to meet requirements related to:

- providing toilets and wash-up facilities
- workers wearing protective headwear at all times when on a project
- workers being adequately protected by a guardrail system

Table 21: Toilet and wash-up facilities initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	524
Workplaces visited	412
Orders and requirements issued	1,994
Stop work orders	197
Orders and requirements per field visit	3.81
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	4.84

Central West Region

Finishing trades

In Central West Region, to prevent injuries from falls in the finishing trades, inspectors visited construction projects where drywall was being installed to look at the safe use of stilts, ladders and work platforms.

Before the launch of this initiative, Central West inspectors attended an information session and toured the training facility of the Interior Systems Contractors Association of Ontario in Woodbridge.

Table 22: Finishing trades initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	60
Workplaces visited	57
Orders and requirements issued	120
Stop work orders	9
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.0
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.1

Eastern Region

Inspection of wood frame structures

During the 2016 construction peak season of April to September, the Eastern Region Construction Program targeted wood-framed construction projects, including both traditional low-rise residential construction and a growing number of mid-rise wood-framed construction projects. This initiative focused on hazards relating to falls, fire protection and access and egress. The most common orders issued were related to:

- fall protection
- failing to file notice of project
- fire protection

- ladders and ladder use

Table 23: Inspection of wood frame structures initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	527
Workplaces visited	434
Orders and requirements issued	1358
Stop work orders	98
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.58
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.13

Northern Region

Vehicles, machines, tools, and equipment

Inspectors in the Northern Region identified the need for enforcement related to the use of vehicles, machines, tools and equipment in the construction sector. This initiative aimed to enhance worker safety, promote safer workplace practices and raise awareness of the importance of using equipment according to operating manuals.

Inspectors educated clients about the importance of:

- training/instructing workers on the use of vehicles, machines, tools and equipment
- ensuring compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- enhancing the Internal Responsibility System

Table 24: Vehicles, machines, tools and equipment initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	221
Workplaces visited	194
Orders and requirements issued	293
Stop work orders	44
Orders and requirements per field visit	1.32
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	1.51

Western Region

Electrical awareness campaign (year 2)

In 2016-2017, the Western Region electrical awareness initiative focused on all hazards associated with the dangers of working around or with electrical installations and conductors at construction projects. The main hazard to workers occurs when they have direct contact with electrical equipment

or are in high-hazard areas, such as working with electrical installations, conductors and distributions systems.

Over the course of this initiative, inspectors performed inspections with utility companies to ensure policies and procedures were implemented, training had been provided and construction companies were complying with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Inspectors reviewed project set up, with a particular focus on the following requirements:

- notice of project (if required)
- on-site registration of constructors and employers engaged in construction (form 1000s)
- site-specific emergency procedures
- posting of signs to warn workers of hazards on the project
- guardrails or other safety measures to protect workers against falls or from entering high hazard areas
- limits of approach for tools and equipment that may conduct electricity
- proper worker techniques when inspecting distribution systems
- proper traffic protection plans
- the availability of a worker health and safety representative when the work force consists of five or more workers
- workers trained on tools and equipment they may be using or have to use
- information, instruction and supervision for workers on the task they need to do, including safety talks or tailboard talks
- implementation/availability of procedures required to be in place

To date, inspectors have conducted 25 field visits at 23 workplaces and issued a total of 52 requirements and orders.

This initiative, developed in partnership with the Electrical Safety Association and the Ministry of Labour, includes ongoing stakeholder education and outreach through spring start-up meetings and presentations.

Table 25: Electrical awareness campaign (year 2) initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	25
Workplaces visited	23
Orders and requirements issued	52
Stop work orders	4
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.08
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.26

Mining program

Ontario has about 40 underground mines, with about 25,000 workers. Minerals such as copper, nickel, gold and other precious metals, diamonds, salt and gypsum are extracted from these underground mines, most of which are located in Northern Ontario.

Ontario also has several thousand surface mines, with about 20,000 workers. Minerals such as gold, palladium, platinum, nickel and copper as well as material such as limestone, sand and gravel are extracted from these surface mines.

The ministry's Mining Program continues to focus on areas where worker safety may be compromised and to work with stakeholders to ensure that all workplaces comply with current regulatory requirements. In 2016-17, mining inspectors were on the lookout for issues related to:

- ground control
- water management in underground mines
- remote control equipment
- explosives

Mining blitzes

In 2016-17, the Mining Program conducted three blitzes aimed at: reducing fall hazards, promoting safe material tramming in mines and promoting safe work processes at mine plants.

Fall hazards

Between 1991 and 2015, 10 workers died in Ontario mines as a result of incidents involving falls. Falls do not have to be from a high location to cause serious injury or death. Many accidents occur at ground level. Injuries can occur due to trips related to poor housekeeping or uneven ground. To protect workers, all fall hazards must be addressed and safe guards must be in place.

From May 16 to July 15, 2016, ministry inspectors visited mining workplaces across Ontario where workers might be at risk of falls. They targeted workplaces where: there was a high frequency of injuries involving falls; complaints had been received or previous incidents had occurred; and there was a history of non-compliance.

Table 26: Fall hazards blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	113
Workplaces visited	95
Orders and requirements issued	363
Stop work orders	26
Orders and requirements per field visit	3.21
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.82

Resources

- [Preventing Falls in Mines](#)
- [Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls in all Workplaces](#)
- [Focus on Falls](#)
- [Prevention of Slips, Trips and Falls](#)

Safe material tramming underground and surface mines

Workers are at risk of serious injury or death if they are exposed to hazards while operating a motor vehicle or are in an area where a motor vehicle is being operated. Safe measures and procedures must be in place to protect workers.

In September and October 2016, inspectors visited underground and surface mines across Ontario. This enforcement blitz targeted hazards that could result in worker injury or death when material is moved by rail, haulage trucks or load, haul and dump equipment.

Inspectors checked that employers were complying with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations. This included checking that mine operators had proper procedures in place to assess and address hazards involving the moving of material.

Table 27: Safe material tramming underground and surface mines blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	19
Workplaces visited	19
Orders and requirements	40
Stop work orders	2
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.11
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.11

Resources

- [Vehicle/Mobile Equipment and Visibility Hazards in Mining Workplaces](#)
- [Mobile Equipment](#)
- [Pedestrian/Mobile Equipment Visibility](#)
- [Safe Operation of Remote Control Equipment](#)
- [Workplace Safety North](#)

Processing – safe work practices – mine plants

Between 2000 and 2015, four workers died in Ontario mines as a result of incidents involving processing equipment in smelters, refineries and mills in mining plants. Employers are responsible for protecting workers from hazards related to processing in mining plants.

Table 28: Processing – safe work practices – mine plants blitz stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	38
Workplaces visited	17
Orders and requirements issued	97

Program activities	Number
Stop work orders	6
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	5.74
Orders and requirements per field visit	2.55

Resources

- [Safe At Work Ontario](#)
- [Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development](#)
- [Contact Employment Ontario](#)
- [Workplace Safety North](#)
- [Mobile Equipment](#)

Provincial mining enforcement initiatives

During 2016-17, provincial compliance and enforcement initiatives in the mining sector focused on ground control, mine shaft audits and mine hoists - automation.

Ground control

Ground instability is one of the biggest causes of fatalities in underground mines in Ontario. Since 2000, 10 workers have died and nearly 50 workers have been critically injured in underground mines in Ontario as a result of falls of ground or rockbursts.

Falls of ground or rockbursts occur when rock becomes dislodged from the roof or walls of an underground excavated site. The amount of rock displaced can vary from hundreds of kilograms to thousands of tonnes.

From April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, the Mining Program continued to work to improve safety in underground mines, focusing specifically on ensuring compliance with:

- a ground control plan
- ground support quality control
- ground instability record keeping

Table 29: Ground control initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	18
Workplaces visited	15
Orders and requirements issued	75
Stop work orders	6
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	5.00
Orders and requirements per field visit	4.17

Resources

- [Ground Control in Mines](#)
- [Notice of a Reportable Incident](#)
- [Ground Control Blitz Bulletin](#)
- [Ground Control Blitz Results](#)
- [Working at the Rock Face in Underground Mines](#)

Mine shaft audits

From April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, electrical/mechanical inspectors focused on mine shafts to ensure requirements are being met.

Inspectors checked the following critical points:

- shaft inspection procedures
- shaft log book entries
- conveyance guides measurement
- frequency of measurements
- moisture content (i.e. compliance with the manufacturer's recommendation for the particular conveyance guide)

Table 30: Mine shaft audits initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	2
Workplaces visited	2
Orders and requirements issued	10
Stop work orders	1
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	5.00
Orders and requirements per field visit	5.00

Resources

- [Blitz topic \(Mining Program\)](#)
- [Workplace Safety North \(WSN\)](#)

Mine hoists - automation

The mine hoists – automation initiative focused on ensuring that employers were complying with requirements related to:

- training for hoist trades (electrical and mechanical)
- level of understanding of the control systems
- safety circuits
- access to automated systems (i.e. level of protection)

Table 31: Electrical/mechanical inspectors mine hoists -
automation initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	1
Workplaces visited	1
Orders and requirements issued	3
Stop work orders	0
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	3.00
Orders and requirements per field visit	3.00

Resources

- [Blitz topic \(Mining Program\)](#)
- [Workplace Safety North \(WSN\)](#)

Regional mining enforcement initiatives

Northern Region

Point-in-time inspections to include both surface and underground operations

In 2015-16, the Northern Region piloted and has since adopted an inspection model that provides a “point-in-time” holistic picture of a mine’s health and safety program and its Internal Responsibility System. Initially, the model involved a team of people – mining inspectors, electrical mechanical mining inspectors, the regional program coordinator and engineers – conducting a top-to-bottom inspection of the mine over three to five days. Now, the point-in-time inspections are conducted by specialized professional services staff and the engineering portion of the inspection is done independently.

Table 32: Point-in-time inspections to include both
surface and underground operations initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	47
Mines visited	4
Orders and requirements issued	227
Stop work orders	12
Orders and requirements per field visit	4.8
Orders and requirements per mines visited	56.8

Electrical/mechanical inspections underground

As part of the “point-in-time” inspection model, the electrical mechanical inspectors review the electrical feeds from the surface feeding the underground mines and then follow up with specific underground equipment inspections. This review is in addition to the inspections done by the mining inspectors, the regional program coordinator and the specialized professional services staff.

Table 33: Electrical/mechanical inspections underground initiative stats

Program activities	Number
Field visits	18
Mines visited	4
Orders and requirements issued	89
Stop work orders	7
Orders and requirements per field visit	4.9
Orders and requirements per mines visited	22.3

Health care program

Health care inspectors enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations at health care workplaces across the province.

In Ontario, health and community care services are provided in a variety of complex settings. The Ministry of Labour Health Care Health and Safety Program covers seven settings:

- long-term care homes (homes for nursing care)
- retirement homes (homes for residential care)
- hospitals
- nursing services
- supported group living residences and other facilities (group homes)
- treatment clinics and specialized services
- professional offices and agencies

In addition to their general inspection duties in 2016-17, inspectors conducted field visits as part of the provincial health care enforcement initiative.

Health care blitzes

Provincial health care initiative

As part of Safe At Work Ontario, the Ministry of Labour conducted a three-year (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2017) initiative to promote health and safety in Ontario’s health care sector.

This initiative addressed the five most serious hazards in health care workplaces:

- musculoskeletal disorders
- exposure to hazardous biological, chemical and physical agents

- slips, trips and falls
- worker contact with objects and/or being struck by objects
- workplace violence

Over the three years, inspectors visited all acute care hospitals as well as some long-term care homes, retirement homes, group homes and community-based health care services. During the inspections, they reviewed both clinical and non-clinical areas.

Inspectors checked for compliance with:

- the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- the regulations for health care and residential facilities
- regulations related to needle safety
- other health and safety regulations

Inspectors also reviewed the workplaces' Internal Responsibility System and their compliance with regulations related to occupational health and safety awareness and training. Inspectors may also have referred employers to health and safety associations for compliance assistance and training.

Enforcement initiatives raise awareness of known workplace hazards and promote compliance with health and safety requirements. Inspectors' findings may influence the frequency and level of future inspections of individual workplaces in the health care sector.

Table 34: Health care enforcement initiative
(Apr 1, 2016-Mar 31, 2017)

Program activities	Number
Field visits	871
Workplaces visited	332
Orders and requirements issued	1,900
Stop work orders	22
Orders per workplace visited	5.72

Enforcement activities from previous years are captured in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 annual reports.

Orders were issued for various violations under the:

- [*Occupational Health and Safety Act*](#)
- [*Reg. 67/93: Health Care and Residential Facilities*](#)
- [*Reg. 474/07: Needle Safety*](#)
- other health and safety regulations

The following table illustrates the number of visits by type of health care workplace, as well as the orders issued.

Table 35: Health care enforcement initiative sector analysis stats

Sector	Orders issued	Stop work orders issued	Requirements issued	Workplaces visited

Sector	Orders issued	Stop work orders issued	Requirements issued	Workplaces visited
Hospitals	1,267	9	32	141
Homes for nursing care	355	6	8	87
Group homes	39	0	1	22
Professional offices and agencies	76	0	2	26
Homes for residential care	138	7	3	48
Treatment clinics and specialized services	21	0	0	8
Nursing services	4	0	0	1
Grand Total	1,900	22	46	332

Resources

- [Health Care Sector Plan 2017-2018](#)
- [Public Services Health & Safety Association Resources to Support Healthcare Sector Plan and Initiatives](#)
- [Health and Community Care](#)

Specialized professional services

The Specialized Professional Services program in the Ministry of Labour provides technical support and expertise to regional staff in the industrial, construction, mining and health care programs in five key areas:

- ergonomics
- occupational hygiene
- engineering
- radiation protection
- emergency management

Ergonomics

In addition to supporting the ministry's general inspectorate, ministry ergonomists conduct proactive ergonomics inspections. In 2016-17, the focus of these proactive inspections was on:

- workplaces with a history of musculoskeletal disorders
- workplaces that have been visited before during proactive initiatives
- clothing and textile industries
- delivery drivers

Table 36: Ergonomics initiative

Program activities	Number
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Program activities	Number
Field visits	509
Workplaces visited	365
Orders and requirements issued	799
Stop work orders	35
Orders and requirements per field visit	1.57
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	2.19

Resources

- [Prevent Musculoskeletal Disorders \(MSDs\) at Construction Projects](#)
- [Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders \(MSDs\) at Industrial Workplaces](#)
- [Ergonomic Handbook for the Clothing Industry](#)

Occupational hygiene

On February 15, 2015, the federal *Hazardous Products Act* and regulations came into force and, on July 1, 2016, Ontario's *Regulation 860 WHMIS* was enacted. Since that time, occupational hygienists conducted an initiative to promote and enforce the regulation, as it applies to both WHMIS 1988 and 2015.

Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017, occupational hygienists conducted proactive visits to various sector workplaces. The goal was to ensure compliance with WHMIS requirements for:

- labels
- safety data sheets and material safety data sheets
- worker education
- communication

Table 37: Occupational hygiene initiative

Program activities	Number
Field visits	407
Workplaces visited	327
Orders and requirements issued	289
Stop work orders	0
Orders and requirements per field visit	0.71
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	0.88

Resources

- [Hazardous Products Act](#)
- [Hazardous Products Regulations](#)
- [Regulation 860 WHMIS](#)

Radiation protection

Radiation protection officers conduct proactive radiation safety inspections and conduct field visits in response to workplace concerns involving ionizing and ion-ionizing radiation. In 2016-17, the radiation protection officers' inspections focused on:

- workplaces that have outstanding rejected applications for installation of an X-ray source
- dental X-ray source installations in open treatment areas at veterinary facilities
- workplaces that have the highest personal X-ray exposures, based on information supplied by the national dose registry database, the repository for occupational X-ray exposures
- X-ray source installations that have never been inspected or have not been inspected for at least six years

Table 38: Radiation protection initiative

Program activities	Number
Field visits	539
Workplaces visited	392
Orders and requirements issued	721
Stop work orders	19
Orders and requirements per field visit	1.34
Orders and requirements per workplace visited	1.84

Resources

- [Veterinary Dental X-Ray Machine Installation](#)

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